

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-9 remain in the application. Claims 1, 4 and 6 have been amended.

In "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103" on pages 2-4 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1-5, 8 and 9 have been rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,735,701 to Jarrett in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,081,419 to Pham under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's statement in Allowable Subject Matter on page 4 of the Office Action that claims 6 and 7 are allowed. More specifically, the Examiner has stated that the reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter are that "the prior art fails to teach or suggest the slide being automatically release[d] from the locking position by an insertion process, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims. Jarrett discloses that the slide is manually moved and there is no teaching or motivation to release the slide automatically by the insertion process."

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. More specifically, a feature of allowable claim 6 has been added to claim 1. Support for the change to claim 1 is therefore found in original claim 6 of the instant application. Claims 4 and 6 have been amended to be consistent with the change in claim 1.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful. Claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*, a

said insertion protection device being automatically released from the locking position when the power supply is inserted into the electrical appliance.

It must be noted, prior to the discussion of the Jarrett reference below, that "locking" in the invention of the instant application means preventing connection of a cable to a power supply. However, being in the "locking" position is necessary in Jarrett to permit connection of a cable to a power supply.

The Jarrett reference discloses a chassis 30, a power supply 5 to be inserted into the chassis 30 and a cable power interface 12 for receiving a power cable 20. A spring 22 keeps an interface guard 14 in an unlocked position as shown in Fig. 2,

in which the power cable 20 cannot be connected to the interface 12. The interface guard 14 is movable manually from the unlocked position into a locked position. In the locked position shown in Fig. 3 of Jarrett, a flange 18 of the interface guard 14 is extended and prevents the power supply 5 from being inserted into the chassis 30. If the power supply 5 is inserted into the chassis 30 when the interface guard 14 is in the unlocked position, and the power cable 20 is connected to the interface 12, the flange 18 may extend through a slot 32 in the chassis 30 in a locked position shown in Fig. 4. The power cable 20 can only be attached to the power supply 5 while the interface guard is in the locked position. Lines 2 and 3 of column 3 of Jarrett make it clear that the "interface guard is manually put in the locked position." There is no teaching in Jarrett of locking (to permit connection of cable 20 and interface 12) being automatically caused by inserting the power supply 5 in the chassis 30.

The Pham reference discloses an electronic instrument 10 having devices 16a, 16b for receiving power supplies 18. When so received, connectors 20 of the power supplies 18 engage connectors 22 of the electronic instrument 10. As is seen in Figs. 1-3 of the reference, a socket 46 receives a plug 48. A cap 34 of an interlock member 30 has a first position shown in

Fig. 2 in which the plug 48 cannot enter the socket 46 and a second position shown in Fig. 3 in which the plug 48 can enter the socket 46. As is stated in column 4, lines 7-11 of Pham, a cap 34 of the interlock member 30 is spring biased into the first position (preventing insertion) "until the interlock member 30 is manually placed in the second position" (permitting insertion). **There is no teaching in Pham of entering the second position (to permit connection of plug 48 and socket 46) being automatically caused by inserting the power supply 18 in the electronic instrument 10.**

The Jarrett reference is used by the Examiner to show an interface, an electrical member and an insertion protection device for preventing insertion of the electrical member. The Pham reference is used by the Examiner to show a male electrical member and a female connector.

As stated by the Examiner:

the prior art fails to teach or suggest a slide being automatically released from a locking position by an insertion process,

Jarrett discloses that the slide is manually moved, and there is no teaching or motivation to release the slide automatically by the insertion process.

Clearly, the references do not show an insertion protection device being automatically released from a locking position when a power supply is inserted into an electrical appliance, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1. Therefore, claims 6 and 7 have not been placed in independent form.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

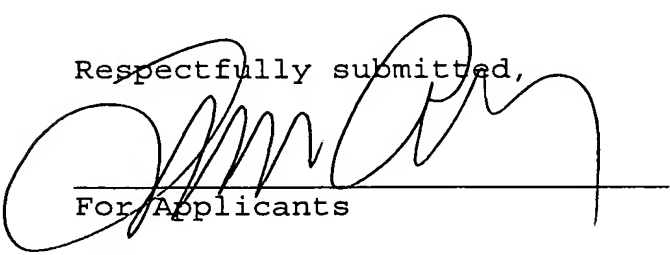
If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Any extension fee associated therewith should be charged to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

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Amdt. dated January 12, 2005
Reply to Office action of November 3, 2004

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to
Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and
Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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